

Serial No. 10/729,617

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) A combination of an outside spindle and a core retainer for a lock, the combination comprising:

an outside spindle including an outer end, the outside spindle being adapted to be mounted to an outside handle of a lock to turn therewith, the outer end of the outside spindle including a slot, the outer end of the outside spindle further including at least one engaging piece formed thereon; and

a core retainer securely mounted to the outer end of the outside spindle, the core retainer being adapted to receive and position a lock core interchangeably mounted in the outside handle, the core retainer including a longitudinal slot aligned with the slot of the outside spindle, with the lock core extending into the slot of the outside spindle and the longitudinal slot of the core retainer, the core retainer including at least one positioning opening for securely receiving spaced from two longitudinally spaced ends of the core retainer, said at least one engaging piece of the outside spindle being securely received in said at least one positioning opening to secure the core retainer against both rotational movement and longitudinal movement relative to the outside spindle.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A combination of an outside spindle and a core retainer for a lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one engaging piece is formed by means of pressing the outside spindle inward, leaving a substantially U-shaped opening having legs parallel to the slot of the outside spindle, with said at least one engaging piece extending parallel to the slot and inward into an interior of the outside spindle and opposite to the outer end of the outside spindle.

Claim 3 (original): A combination of an outside spindle and a core retainer for a lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer end of the outside spindle includes a notch, and wherein the core retainer includes a protrusion engaged with the notch.

Claim 4 (original): The combination of an outside spindle and a core retainer for a lock as claimed in claim 1, with the longitudinal slot of the core retainer including an engaging section, with the lock core including a protrusion abutting against the engaging section.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): [[The]] A combination of an outside spindle and a core retainer for a lock as claimed in claim 5, the combination comprising:

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an outside spindle including an outer end, the outside spindle being adapted to be mounted to an outside handle of a lock to turn therewith, the outer end of the outside spindle including a slot, the outer end of the outside spindle further including two diametrically disposed engaging pieces formed thereon; and

a core retainer securely mounted to the outer end of the outside spindle, the core retainer being adapted to receive and position a lock core interchangeably mounted in the outside handle, the core retainer including a longitudinal slot aligned with the slot of the outside spindle, with the lock core extending into the slot of the outside spindle and the longitudinal slot of the core retainer, the core retainer including two diametrically disposed positioning openings for securely receiving the engaging pieces of the outside spindle, respectively;

wherein each said engaging piece is formed by ~~means of~~ pressing the outside spindle inward, leaving a substantially U-shaped opening, with said engaging piece extending inward into an interior of the outside spindle.

Claim 7 (currently amended): [[The]] A combination of an outside spindle and a core retainer for a lock as claimed in claim 5, the combination comprising:

an outside spindle including an outer end, the outside spindle being adapted to be mounted to an outside handle of a lock to turn therewith, the outer end of the outside spindle including a slot, the outer end of the outside spindle further including two diametrically disposed engaging pieces formed thereon; and

a core retainer securely mounted to the outer end of the outside spindle, the core retainer being adapted to receive and position a lock core interchangeably mounted in the outside handle, the core retainer including a longitudinal slot aligned with the slot of the outside spindle, with the lock core extending into the slot of the outside spindle and the longitudinal slot of the core retainer, the core retainer including two diametrically disposed positioning openings for securely receiving the engaging pieces of the outside spindle, respectively;

wherein the outer end of the outside spindle includes a notch, and wherein the core retainer includes a protrusion engaged with the notch.

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Claim 8 (currently amended): The combination of an outside spindle and a core retainer for a lock as claimed in claim [[5]] 6, with the longitudinal slot of the core retainer including an engaging section, with the lock core including a protrusion abutting against the engaging section.

Claim 9 (new): The combination of an outside spindle and a core retainer for a lock as claimed in claim 6, with the positioning openings being spaced from two ends of the core retainer.

Claim 10 (new): The combination of an outside spindle and a core retainer for a lock as claimed in claim 7, with the positioning openings being spaced from two ends of the core retainer.